

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-108. (Canceled)

109. (Currently amended) A GCTM-5 antibody ~~or an antigen-binding portion thereof~~ produced by a hybridoma having ECACC accession number 03101603, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

110-116. (Canceled)

117. (Currently amended) The GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof ~~antigen-binding protein~~ according to claim 109 wherein the GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof inhibits the binding of GCTM-5 antibody to a hepatic stem cell selected from the group consisting of: a hepatoblast; a hepatic stem cell; a hepatic progenitor cell; a pancreatic stem cell; a pancreatic progenitor cell; a hepatic cancer cell; and a pancreatic cancer cell.

118. (Currently amended) The GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof ~~antigen-binding protein~~ according to claim 117 wherein the hepatic stem cell is a cell of the biliary epithelium.

119. (Currently amended) The GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof ~~antigen-binding protein~~ according to claim 117 wherein the stem cell is proliferating.

120. (Canceled)

121. (Previously presented) A hybridoma that produces a GCTM-5 antibody of ECACC accession number 03101603.

122.-169. (Canceled)

170. (Currently amended) A kit for detecting a cell marker, said kit comprising the GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof ~~antigen-binding protein~~ according to claim 109 which is capable of detecting a hepatic stem cell.

171. (Canceled)

172. (Currently amended) The kit according to claim 170, wherein the GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof ~~antigen-binding protein~~ is capable of detecting the hepatic stem cell GCTM-5 epitope on a cell selected from the group consisting of: a hepatoblast; a hepatic stem cell; a hepatic progenitor cell; a pancreatic stem cell; a pancreatic progenitor cell; a biliary cell; a biliary epithelial cell; a hepatic cancer cell; and a pancreatic cancer cell.

173. (Currently amended) The kit according to claim 170, wherein the GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof ~~antigen-binding protein~~ is capable of detecting the hepatic stem cell GCTM-5 epitope on a cell that is proliferating.

174. (Currently amended) The kit according to claim 170, wherein the GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof ~~antigen-binding protein~~ is capable of detecting the hepatic stem cell GCTM-5 epitope in a biological sample including cell culture, tissue culture, conditioned medium, tissue sample, blood, serum, plasma and other bodily fluids and biopsy samples.

175-176. (Canceled)

177. (Currently amended) A kit for isolating a subpopulation of stem cells, said kit comprising the GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof ~~antigen-binding protein~~ according to claim 109 for detecting cells expressing a GCTM-5 epitope, and a means to separate the cells detected by the antigen binding protein.

178. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 177 for isolating a hepatic stem cell selected from the group consisting of: a hepatoblast; a hepatic stem cell; a hepatic progenitor cell; a pancreatic stem cell; and a pancreatic progenitor cell.

179. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 177 for isolating a hepatic stem cell that is proliferating.

180. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 177 for isolating a hepatic stem cell from a biological sample including cell culture, tissue culture, conditioned medium, tissue sample, blood, serum, plasma and other bodily fluids and biopsy samples.

181-182. (Canceled)